Average Time Taken to Reserve a Single Berth in Delhi

2744. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the average time taken to reserve a single berth in Delhi is 75 minutes or more;

(b) whether it is a fact that the public is severely harassed by the long delays in purchasing a ticket;

(c) whether any senior Railway officers have visited various Reservation booking Centers in Delhi to meet with the public; and

(d) if so, the details of such visits in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The maximum waiting time for a passenger in queue vary from 45 to 75 minutes during summer period depending upon the time the passenger joins in the queue for seeking reservation.

(c) and (d) During the summer rush period from April to June, 1998 special arrangements were made by Northern Railway in Delhi area to monitor the working of the reservation offices in Delhi at the level of officers who remained there daily for about four hours in the morning. In addition, railway staff was also deputed to check the requisition forms of the passengers waiting in the hall to scrutinise and initial their requis-tion forums, besides, inspections were also done by senior officers at various locations.

Printed versions of 'Wealth of India'

2745. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:'

(a) whether it is a fact that printed versions of Wealth of India (WOI) published NISCOM since 1948 have come to a stop since 1992;

(b) whether it is also a fact that currently only CD-ROM versions of WOI are produced and the copyright of these belong exclusively to AHEAD;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the views of the Government on this in the light of the fact that expenditure incurred on this account is exclusively borne by the NISCOM?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) No Sir. Reprints of various volumes of Wealth of India (WOI) brought out since 1992 are as follows:

Volume V	—	1997
Volume VII	—	1997
Volume VIII	—	1995
Volume IX X & XII	—	1995
Volume IV & VI	—	1995
(supplements)	—	1997

Member organisations contribute to AHEAD, information and database inputs over which they hold copyright.

(c) Does not airse.

(d) It is not correct that the expenditure is exclusively borne by NISCOM. Infact, AHEAD is supported by funds from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Canada and NISCOM as lead organisation member has committed to provide infrastructural and a limited technical manpower sup-port.

Scientists working in AHEAD

2746. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 1196 given the Rajya Sabha on 5th June, 1998 and state:

(a) whether 23 Scientists/employees working in the AHEAD out of total 25 persons employed can be termed as Limited Technical Support;